

teaches touch areas that are keys; that with respect to claims 3-7, as illustrated in Figures 1-3 and 6, and as illustrated in the Tables within the text in columns 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20, Yang teaches symbols that are Latin letters, Hebrew letters, Arabic letters, Cyrillic letters, and Greek letters; that although Yang does not specifically mention Latin, Hebrew, and Cyrillic letters, the symbols illustrated (in Figures 1-3, and 6, and as illustrated in the Tables within the text in columns 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20) are Latin, Hebrew, and Cyrillic letters; that with respect to Claim 8, as illustrated in Figure 4, the keys or touch areas constitute flat plates; and that with respect to Claim 10, in column 16, lines 37-44 teaches the keyboard for use in a pocket-size computer, electronic recording card, game machine, and telephone apparatus.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of Fisher, U.S. Patent No. 4,310,753. The Examiner maintains that Yang teaches all the claimed subject matter, except for flat plates provided with a groove to receive a pointer; that as illustrated in Figures 2-10, Fisher teaches flat plates with grooves as recited; and that to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to include the grooves of Fischer, in the plates of Yang to ensure accurate placement of fingernails and other pointed operating instruments when operating the keyboard, as taught by Fischer in column 1 line 56 to column 2 line 22.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

Each of Yang and Fischer disclose a keyboard having "conventional" shaped keys wherein the keys have symbols thereon. In significant contrast, some or all of the keys in the present invention have unique shapes of parts of characters, and as such have never been previously disclosed. It is this characteristic that is novel and unique in the present invention. The user enters a character (a complete character, that is, even though the key has only the shape of a part of the character) by pressing on a key that has the shape of a part of that character.

Yang and Fisher do not disclose or suggest presenting keys whose shapes are parts of the actual shape of the character or symbol that is to be entered.

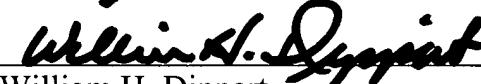
The arrangement of the keys and their grouping on the keyboard of the present invention is not merely a design choice. Rather, their shapes and groupings are important for the overall shape that they present to the user in order to help him find the desired key that he wishes to press in order to enter the desired character.

The arrangement of the keys and their shapes are directly related to the shapes of characters in the particular language of the keyboard.

The claims herein are not disclosed or suggested by the references cited and the rejections under § 102(b) or 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



William H. Dippert
Reg. No. 26,723

Reed Smith LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
29th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Telephone: 212-521-5400
Facsimile: 212-521-5450